SOIL SCIENCE

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INDEX

AUTHORS AND SUBJECTS

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THE PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL INDEX

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The general index for the first twenty-five volumes of *Soil Science* represents a condensed summary of investigations in the various fields of soil science, covering a period of more than a decade. Soil science has made rapid strides within the last decade. It allied itself with the fundamental sciences of biology, physics, and chemistry in an attempt to solve the riddles of the soil-plant relationships. The general index reflects the relation of soil science to the fundamental sciences.

The index has been prepared so that the contents of the journal may be made more readily accessible. There will be no need of turning to the table of contents of each volume, which in itself is not complete, as it gives only titles of papers. Neither are the individual volume indexes sufficiently complete. They are, for this reason, of limited value. This is especially true of the early volumes. It was felt, therefore, that a general index prepared from the original papers, with no reference to the existing single volume indexes, would aid greatly in the orientation of the material published in *Soil Science.*

The index as compiled is a classified directory of investigations conducted and recorded. The trained worker in the field of soil science will readily find in the index the particular subject in which he is interested; and the novice will find it a helpful guide. He will be able to avoid unnecessary repetitions, to obtain leads in the various branches of the science, and to utilize the facts known and interpreted in the pages of the first twenty-five volumes of *Soil Science.*

The index reflects the development of the science. One may note, for instance, that the entries on ammonification, frequent in the earlier volumes, gradually decrease. There was a time when the soil biological investigations were centering around ammonification studies. Gradually, however, the nature of the process was elucidated and found to be less important than anticipated for an insight into the microbiological activities of the soil. A similar development of the other branches of soil science may be traced from the pages of the index.

In compiling the index, thoroughness, accuracy, and consideration for the user were duly stressed.

Many subjects were cross-referenced and some were repeatedly indexed under different headings. The latter meant a repetition of the indexed subject, but it should prevent the searcher from missing the subject. For example, one would expect to find the subject of "Roterde" indexed under "Soil" or "Soils," but it is also given as an independent entry.

The material in the index was so arrranged as to stimulate the searcher—to give him a lead to the other topics which may have a bearing on the subject. Thus if one studies the value of ammonium sulfate he should be led into the field of nitrification.

In many cases the senior author of the index placed himself in the position of index-user whenever a decision had to be made as to the best heading to be selected for a particular entry. However, this procedure was not allowed to overemphasize the significance of the personal equation.

An effort has been made to eliminate word indexing as far as possible and to compile entries under one heading. To be sure, this last task was not fully accomplished. The traditional use of terms like "Lime," "Liming," "Calcium Carbonate," or "Limestone" has been retained, even though they may refer to the same thing. There is no authoritative plan as to which of these terms is to be preferred. "Acidity" and "H-ion Concentration" offer another example. In the indexing of any of these terms the usage of the author was respected.

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